

quite recent ; and it must be many a thousand years since whales could have maintained themselves upon that ground. It is hardly necessary to add that no marine beds of any kind have been met with in sinking wells or the like through the alluvium, which is probably fluviatile to the very bottom, and there rests on an irregular surface of hill and dale, formed by the long and deeply eroded Coal bearing rocks. These again, in all probability rest, as has been shown, on a similarly eroded surface of Silurian or even older Slates, and these, as the Hindoo Cosmogony has it, upon the fundamental Tortoise.

DIMENSIONS OF SOME GIGANTIC LAND TORTOISES.

BY J. C. COX, M.D., &c.

We have in Sydney two large specimens of a Gigantic Land Tortoise. One is the property of Alexander McDonald, Esq., of Adelaide Cottage, Potts' Point, and is named "Rotumah," from the fact of his having been presented to the owner by the Chief of Rotumah. This specimen is a male.

The second is owned by Dr. Manning at Gladesville, a female.

Porter in 1813, was the first who published any record of these huge Land Tortoises, which he found from 3 to 400lbs. in weight at the Galapagos Islands. I am not at all sure as to what species these two Tortoises belong, but they are supposed to come from Galapagos Archipelago. Darwin saw two there which he says must have weighed at least two hundred pounds each.

There is a large specimen of this Tortoise at Ceylon, whose great size was considered sufficient by the inhabitants to demand a Royal Inspection—First, by the Duke of Edinburgh while on a cruise in H.M.S. *Galatea*, and subsequently by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, when he landed at Ceylon on his way to India. This tortoise weighed 224lbs., but some notion of the enormous Tortoise in the possession of Mr. McDonald may be found when I mention that its weight is no less than 642lbs.

Subjoined is a record of the measurements of Mr. McDonald's Tortoise and those of the Ceylon and Gladesville specimens. The specimen at Gladesville far exceeds that of the Ceylon specimen, but

does not come up to that of Mr. McDonald's, though the difference in sex may in some way account for this. There is a specimen of a huge Tortoise in the British Museum from the Aldabra Island, which weighed 870lbs., and is called *Testudo Elephantina*. Many of this latter species have been exported to the Seychelles, where they thrive well.

	ROTUMAH.	GIGANTIC TORTOISE.	GLADESVILLE.
	Adelaide Cottage.	Ceylon.	Tortoise.
Length of nose to tail...	6ft. 2in.	5ft. 3in.	5ft. 10½in. no tail.
Ditto shell.....	4ft. 7½in.	4ft. 7in.	4ft.
Across ditto.....	5ft. 10½in.	4ft. 3in.	5ft.
Girth	8ft. 3in.		6ft. 7½in.
Height lying down.....	2ft. 2¼in.		
Ditto standing up ...	3ft. 1in.	2ft. 3in.	
Length under shell	3ft.		2ft 4½in.
Front leg under knee...	1ft. 7½in.		
Ditto round elbow .	2ft. 1½in.		1ft. 5in.
Ditto round foot....	1ft. 1in.		
Hindleg, instep...	1ft. 9½in.		
Round head.....	1ft. 7in.		1ft. 3in.
Weight... 5 cwt., 2 qrs. and 26lbs.		2 cwt. 2 qrs.	

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

The following communication from Baron von Müller on the Orthography of the name of Linnaeus was read.

As a Society, bearing the great name of Linnaeus, must be particularly interested in the exact manner in which that name should be written, a translation is herewith offered from a letter by the celebrated Algologist, Professor Dr. J. Agardh, of Lund, to Baron Von Müller, on this subject, concerning which, after some recent writings of the latter, a controversy had arisen.

"You desire to know how the name of Linné has been written with us. In olden times it was customary in Sweden, that University Students chose a particular name, and to this often added the Latin syllable -us. Especially among Divines were such names very usual; thus we have had Archbishop Rydelling,